

CALL TO ORDER

The May 11, 2022 special meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Dickson.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Dickson led the pledge of allegiance to the flag

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Dave Dickson presiding, and
Dan Blair, Cathy McCord, Tom Wagner
Victor Shen (Telephonic) and
Peter Denmark (Telephonic)

Comprising a quorum of the Board; and

Absent: David Pinguoch

Also Present

Kris Erchinger, Finance Director
Jackie C. Wilde, Assistant City Manager
Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk
Scott Korbe, Director of Public Works

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT EXCEPT THOSE ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING – None

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Wagner/Blair)

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Adding discussion item for May 24 rescheduled meeting as it conflicts with the Whittier Community School graduation.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS-NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)- NONE

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES- NONE

RESOLUTIONS

Motion (Blair/Wagner)

RESOLUTION 2022-017 – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Whittier, Alaska, Approving Emergency Repairs To Road And Storm Drain Systems Resulting From Abandoned Federal Infrastructure In An Amount Not To Exceed \$100,000, And Appropriating Funds

ERCHINGER explained that GMC is around various parts of the City conducting earthquake repairs from the November 2018 earthquake and in the process of doing the repairs, old infrastructure was identified. Stated that the City is asking for up to \$100,000 for mitigation efforts. Explained that roads are not usually covered by insurance especially roads with preexisting conditions such as this. **ERCHINGER** also disclosed that these repairs will not be covered by the state either. **ERCHINGER** described the 3 items that were identified; a wooden fuel tank, a steam line, and a sinkhole that could potentially contain more outdated and abandoned infrastructure speculating on the size of the hole. Stated that the City is expecting roughly \$50,000 of additional cost to the contract to ask the contractors to resolve these issues while on site. Stated the importance of removing it now as costs to resolve it in the future will be exponential. Asking Council to appropriate \$100,000 in the event of running into additional challenges. **ERCHINGER** concluded by saying time is of the essence.

BLAIR asked how the road repairs are being covered. **ERCHINGER** responded that this is not a budgeted item and that funding will come from general fund via Major Repair and Replacement fund as the City was not anticipating it. Updated the Council that there is currently \$1.4 million in the account. **ERCHINGER** mentioned to the Council that the State does not cover contingency costs because when the City went out to bid, the State agrees, up front, what they're going to pay for. Stated that even if there was contingency, there still would have been additional costs that Council will have had to approve.

BLAIR asked about the accumulation of the \$1.4 million in the account. **ERCHINGER** responded by mentioning the City's account with UBS for general fund related equipment and infrastructure and the resolution that was brought in front of Council that essentially approved to liquidate the UBS monies in that account and move them into the City's general fund with specific designations that require Council approval in order to be spent.

KORBE reiterated the situation the Council and the abandoned infrastructure that were discovered. **MCCORD** asked if there are any residuals in the earth from the abandoned fuel tank. **KORBE** responded that there are residual hydrocarbons at the site that are being tested and cited by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Stated that this has happened in Whittier in the past. **WAGNER** asked if GMC will be the contractors for repairs next spring or will the project go out for bid again. **KORBE** stated that the goal is to have a shovel ready project by 2023 and to seek as much funding. Working with CRW in preliminary stages of project design.

Motion Passed

AYES: Blair, Shen, Wagner, McCord,

Denmark, and Dickason
NAYS: NONE

Motion (Blair/Wagner)

RESOLUTION 2022-018- A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Whittier, Alaska, Authorizing An Additional Payment Of \$63,800 Under Duress, To The United States Army Corps Of Engineers, In Addition To The Previously Authorized \$165,000, And Appropriating Funds

ERCHINGER gave history on the City's Relationship with the US Army Corps Of engineers and the land transfer project at the head of the bay. Reminded Council of the early stages of the process to prepare the land at the head of the bay for disposal. Explained that in 2018 the City contributed \$112,000 to the US Army Corps of Engineers for various testing and feasibility studies. Explained that in 2018, the Army Corps appraised the land and as a result, made the decision to sell the property to the City. The Army Corps wrote a letter to the City outlining the diminished cost of the property at the time. **ERCHINGER** stated that the Council approved the purchase of the land, deed was signed, Corps stated they've received approval for transaction. Stated that there was a delay but no indication for any concern. As the delay went on, the City utilized legal counsel and was informed that those responsible in DC were not prepared to sign the deed as the appraisal was too old. **ERCHINGER** gave insight as to best course of action, which is to pay the cost mentioned in the resolution so that the deed is transferred to the City. Stated it is critical for the project at the head of the bay.

BLAIR stated that the increased value is 40% higher. Asked when the appraisal Done.

ERCHINGER responded that most of the money Was spent on studies on contamination. **BLAIR** stated it sounds like they're trying to get more of their remediation costs Out of us under the guise of a reappraisal. **WAGNER** stated the City needs to move on this. **DICKASON** asked what could the path be with legal counsel. **ERCHINGER** replied that the options are the City could conduct it's own appraisal, submit it to DC, but it will continue to delay the project and it is not beneficial for the City of Whittier. **BLAIR** asked if we can anticipate that they will move forward. **ERCHINGER** replied that the City can do everything on our end to facilitate the process, cannot speak on behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Motion Passed

AYES: Blair, Shen, Wagner, McCord,
Denmark, and Dickason
NAYS: NONE

Other New Business Items

B. Discussion of Rescheduled May 24, 2022 Meeting as it conflicts with the Whittier Community School Graduation.

WILDE explained that since there will be three public hearings on the 24th, it was not the City's intention to schedule the meeting on Graduation day. Stated it was unforeseen and wanted to be fully transparent. **DICKASON** responded that he doesn't see a problem with the rescheduled date of May 24.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS - NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

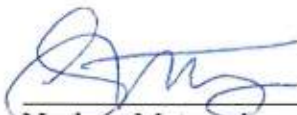
None

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS

ERCHINGER reported on the TBMP meeting. Invited the public to read the Best Management Practices guidelines from Juneau and the Wilderness Best Practices guidelines as well. Stated that both documents can be found on the City's website and on Google. Reported that the group would like to meet in August. **ERCHINGER** also reported on the longstanding IRS situation and that it has been resolved. **WILDE** reported on Princess adopting a highway in Whittier and their plans for monthly clean up as a result of the adoption.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.



Naelene Matsumiya
City Clerk

(City Seal)



Dave Dickson
Mayor